



## ★ Buddhism




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### **What is the origin of this religion? When/How/Why did it start?**

Buddhism started in India 500 BCE. Prince Siddhathe Gotama was a very rich Prince who had seen a sick man, and a funeral with people weeping around the corpse. These things had disturbed him and so he became a monk after he had given up his home and family.

### **What are the main rituals or practices of this religion?**

The main rituals and practices in the rituals of Buddhism are going to temples, praying and meditation.

### **What are the main texts associated with this religion?**

I don't think we can put a text to Buddhism, it is not so much of a religion, it's a way of life.

### **How many people follow this religion in Australia and the World?**

In 2006 there were around 418 000 Buddhists in Australia.

### **How can you be a good/devout follower of this religion?**

You could be a good follower of the religion if you; pray at least once a month, actually believe in the religion, want to be enlightened and to be pure.

### **What rewards and punishments are associated with the faith?**

A reward to this religion is living a good life and to being reincarnated into something worth while in your next life.

### **List any important places associated with this religion.**

Temples.

### **Are there any important symbols associated with this religion? What are they?**

Important symbols that can be associated with Buddhism is the lotus, the Bodhi tree, Eight Spoken Dharma wheel, lion, footprints, buddha's eyes and the stupas. All of these things have many different meaning like the enlightened mind of Buddha, Omniscient mind of Buddha, the physical prescence of enlightenment, regality, strength and power, and how Buddha had achieved enlightenment.



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